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#3/c
J. Masson
6-11-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: MASSON, Marcos; HENRY, Mark

SERIAL NO.: 09/916,819

ART UNIT: 3732

FILED: July 30, 2001

EXAMINER: Smith, J.

TITLE: CIRCUMFERENTIAL RETRCTOR APPARATUS

AMENDMENT "A"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box Non-Fee Amendment

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of March 28, 2002, a response being due by June 28, 2002,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 14 - 20 and insert Claims 21 - 26 therefor as follows:

~~14-21~~ 21. A paddle for a circumferential retractor apparatus comprising:

a paddle member having a body portion supporting a grasping surface, said body portion having a hole formed therein suitable for receiving an elastic member therein, said body portion having an arcuate portion, said body portion having a pair of blocks connected to a bottom of said arcuate portion, said pair of blocks being separated by a space, said space being suitable for allowing the elastic member to pass between said pair of blocks, said hole being formed in said arcuate portion, said arcuate portion having an interior surface with a plurality of ribs extending outwardly therefrom.

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